

**First time in 22 years**

# **USAMU wins it all in Interservice Pistol Championships**

**By Paula J. Randall Pagán**

**U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Accessions Support Brigade**

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** - For the first time in more than two decades, a Soldier with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit can claim the title of Interservice Pistol Champion.

Despite being down by 10 points after Day 3 June 15, Sgt. Keith A. Sanderson of the Army Marksmanship Unit came back to win the Interservice Pistol Championships Individual Grand Aggregate June 16 by nine points over Army Reserve Staff Sgt. James Henderson who took second place; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Brian Zins finished third, four points behind Henderson in the 46<sup>th</sup> annual Interservice Pistol Championships.

Henderson beat Sanderson by one point to win the Service Pistol Individual Championship June 16 and Staff Sgt. Adam E. Sokolowski of the USAMU took third place.

The USAMU Service Pistol Team won the Interservice Pistol Championships Team Grand Aggregate, beating the second-place team of the Marine Corps by 78 points; the Army Reserve Team took third place, nine points behind the Marines. The USAMU Team was coached by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Roger C. Jacobson and team members were Jacobson, Sanderson, Sokolowski and Spc. Sean P. Watson.

The USAMU Team, coached by Jacobson, also won the Service Pistol Team Championship by 14 points over the Reserve Team, which took second place. The USAMU Team coached by Spc. Timothy M. Barber took third place; shooters were Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Eric G. Daniels, Staff Sgt. Robert M. Mango, Sgt. Robert S. Park II and Pvt. 2 Christopher J. Jones.

Jacobson's team took a commanding lead in the overall team competition June 15. The Army won the .45-Caliber Team Championship by 12 points over the second place Marine Corps Team. This win put the Army Team 22 points ahead of the Marine Corps Team. Barber's Team took third place in the .45-Caliber Team Match.

Sanderson won the .45-Caliber Individual Championship with a score of 891 points out of a possible 900. Zins finished two points behind in second place and Sokolowski finished third with an 884.

Zins took the 2700 Aggregate Individual Championship, followed by Sanderson in second place and Henderson in third. This championship was an aggregate of the .22-Caliber Match that was shot June 13, the Center Fire Match that was fired June 14 and the .45-Caliber Match that took place June 15.

Barber won the Excellence in Competition Match, followed by Marine Pfc. Ben R. Footer in second place and Jones in third.

In the second day of competition June 14, the Army Team won easily and shooters of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit took six of the top eight spots in the individual matches.

The USAMU Team of Jacobson, Sokolowski, Sanderson and Watson won the Center Fire Team Championship; the Marine Corps Team took second place, 12 points behind the USAMU Team and the Army Reserve Team finished third, 21 points behind the Army.

Zins won the Center Fire Individual Championship with a score of 890 points out of a possible 900, followed by Henderson trailing three points behind in second place. In the following six spots were the following USAMU Soldiers: Sanderson, Jacobson and Mango at 881 points; Sokolowski at 878 points; Park with 872 points; and Daniels at 870.

June 13, Henderson won the .22-Caliber Individual Championship, with Zins just two points behind in second place and Sanderson and Marine Gunnery Sgt. Richard T. Gray three points behind Zins in third. Following close behind were Marine Reserve Sgt. Jason P. Hedrick, Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Jon Rosene, Sokolowski, Marine Sgt. Matthew H. Prykryl, Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Fritz Ficke and Jones.

The Marine Corps Team took the .22-Caliber Team Championship, just two points ahead of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Team. The All Guard Team, made up of Army and Air Force National Guard shooters, finished third.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit hosted the Interservice Pistol Championships June 13 to 17 at Phillips Ranges. Nearly 80 members of the military competed for the chance to win plaques and medals and for the bragging rights to call themselves the military's "Top Gun." Military personnel from the Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Navy, Navy Reserve, Air Force, Air National Guard, Marines, Marine Corps Reserves and the Coast Guard competed in the matches.

"We are a nation at war. Our expertise with issued small arms must be comprehensive, both as individual shooters and as collective instructors," USAMU Commander Lt. Col. David J. Liwanag said.

“This year we take the first step in developing and improving the overall proficiency of all Department of Defense pistol shooters with an introduction to the joint-service Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting combat match formats using standard issue service pistols and ammunition.”

The Combat Pistol Training Matches are being conducted June 17 at Parks Range and the 46<sup>th</sup> annual Interservice Pistol Championships Awards Banquet will take place at 6 p.m. at the Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center.

For more information on the Interservice Pistol Championships, contact Michael J. Behnke, USAMU chief of competitions, at (706) 545-7841 or [michael.behnke@usaac.army.mil](mailto:michael.behnke@usaac.army.mil). A copy of the Interservice Pistol Championship program, schedule and match results are available on the USAMU website at [www.usamu.com](http://www.usamu.com).

Media are invited to the combat matches and awards ceremony but should coordinate with the Public Affairs Office before coming to Fort Benning. Call (706) 545-5436 or e-mail [paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil](mailto:paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil) <<mailto:paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil>> for more information.

*(Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army, the Army Marksmanship Unit is assigned to the Accessions Support Brigade of the U.S. Army Accessions Command. The Marksmanship Unit trains its Soldiers to win competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics, research and development. For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, [paula.pagan@usaac.army.mil](mailto:paula.pagan@usaac.army.mil) or <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/>.)*